

CA SHSP Fact Sheet

Background

On August 10, 2005, the President signed into law the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). SAFETEA-LU establishes a new core Highway Safety Improvement Program that is structured and funded to make significant progress in reducing highway fatalities on all public roadways. As required under SAFETEA-LU, the California Department of Transportation led the effort to develop the statewide Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) to identify key safety needs of the State, and strategies that address these needs.

Purpose

The purpose of developing a SHSP for California is to identify the State's key safety needs and challenges, and guide investment decisions to achieve significant reductions in fatalities and injuries on all public roads in California.

Developing the SHSP

To develop the SHSP, Caltrans established a Steering Committee comprised of representatives from 18 local, state, and federal entities. A broader Stakeholder Group, consisting of about 200 representatives from 80 different agencies, was established to provide much of the content of the SHSP. Finally, Caltrans held two SHSP Summit meetings (one each in Northern and Southern California) in March of 2006. The workshops held at the summits generated feedback and ideas from over 500 additional transportation and safety policy stakeholders.

Approval of SHSP

California's SHSP was approved by the Secretary of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency (BTH) on September 26, 2006.

Challenges for California

The SHSP is organized around the 16 Challenge Areas listed below. Each Challenge Area incorporates consideration of both behavioral and infrastructure strategies to improve safety on all public roads.

- Challenge 1: Reduce Alcohol and/or Drug-Impaired Roadway Users
- Challenge 2: Reduce the Occurrence and Consequence of Leaving the Roadway and Head-on Collisions
- Challenge 3: Ensure Drivers are Licensed and Competent
- Challenge 4: Increase Proper Use of Safety Belts and Occupant Protection
- Challenge 5: Improve Driver Decisions about Rights of Way and Turning
- Challenge 6: Reduce Young Driver Crashes
- Challenge 7: Improve Intersection and Interchange Safety for Roadway Users
- Challenge 8: Make Walking and Street Crossing Safer
- Challenge 9: Improve Safety for Older Roadway Users
- Challenge 10: Reduce Speeding and Aggressive Driving
- Challenge 11: Improve Commercial Vehicle Safety
- Challenge 12: Improve Motorcycle Safety
- Challenge 13: Improve Bicycling Safety
- Challenge 14: Enhance Work Zone Safety
- Challenge 15: Improve Post Crash Survivability
- Challenge 16: Improve Safety Data Collection, Access, and Analysis

Implementation Plan

Caltrans is in the process of establishing a Steering Committee and a broader safety stakeholder Implementation Team. This team will evaluate the safety needs in California and will develop SHSP priorities and recommendations. The team will also monitor and evaluate the SHSP Implementation.